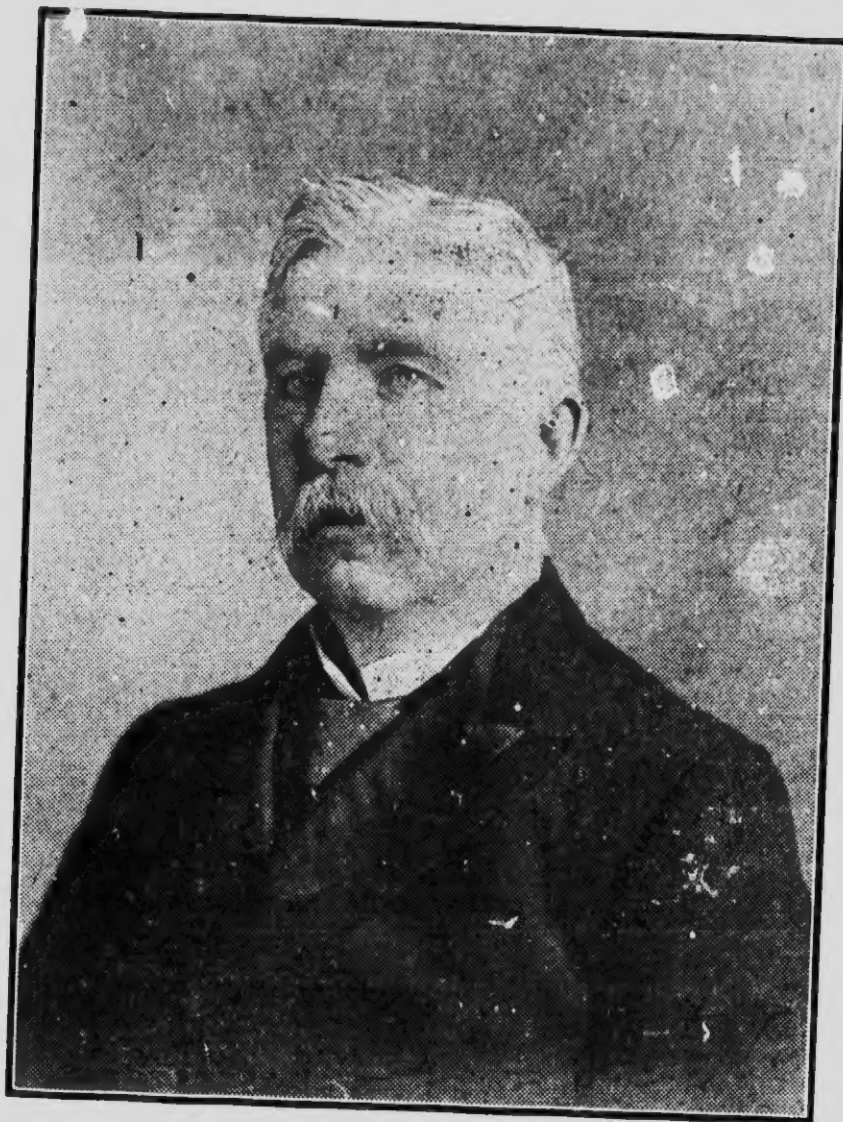


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ADDRESS OF



Sir Edward Morris,
Leader Of the People's Party.

ADDRESS.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
March 4th, 1906.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND :

In the month of January last I received the following letter from the members of the Legislature who composed His Majesty's Opposition :—

" St. John's, January 30, 1906.

" SIR E. P. MORRIS, K.C.,

" DEAR SIR EDWARD,—

" In consequence of the resignation by Captain Charles Dawe, of the Leadership of the Opposition, as recently announced in the public press, it has become necessary to make immediate and definite arrangements for the conduct of business in the House of Assembly during the session. This, in our opinion, should be followed by a complete re-organization of the Opposition forces throughout the Colony. In order to accomplish this, the first requisite, it seems to us, is to have at the head of such a movement a leader of recognized ability and mature experience in public affairs.

" Having full confidence in your ability to meet the demands of such a situation, and recognizing the advantage which nearly a quarter of a century of continuous public life gives you, we, the sitting members of the House who are in opposition to the Government, request you to assume the leadership in the Assembly and to take immediate steps for the re-organization of the Opposition forces throughout the Colony on broad and comprehensive lines.

" Should you see your way clear to fall in with our wishes, we pledge you our loyal and unwavering support, and believe that our action in this connection will be confirmed by a large majority of the intelligent electorate on both sides of politics.

" Yours sincerely,

(Sgd).

CHARLES DAWE,
R. MOULTON,
M. P. CASHIN,
S. D. BLANDFORD,
W. C. WINSOR,
DONALD MORISON."

Although this letter was sufficiently representative to justify my acceding to the request therein contained, I hesitated to too quickly assume a position, the responsibility of which I hope I fully appreciate.

I informed the members of the Opposition that, in my

judgment, the correct course to pursue would be to continue the work of the session as we had from the beginning, without any regular leadership, but that I would informally lead the Opposition from my place in the House; and that at the close of the session, when the country would have had an opportunity of estimating our work, and my fitness to lead, I would be prepared to consider their very flattering invitation.

I further stated that it was most desirable that an opportunity should be afforded our friends in the Outports and St. John's to make known their wishes as to my leadership, and particularly to endorse the action of the members of the Opposition in the Legislature.

The assurances which have reached me from the Outports, as well as the endorsement from our friends in St. John's, as appended below, have been of such a nature as to leave no room for doubt in my mind that the desire of the country is that I should lead the Opposition forces at the coming General Election.

I, therefore, after much consideration, comply with the wishes of the people, and with a full appreciation of the many shortcomings for the work I am undertaking, accept the position of Leader of the Opposition forces in the Colony, which henceforth will be known as the **THE PEOPLE'S PARTY**.

Under the banner of the PEOPLE'S PARTY the whole of the industrial classes of the Colony—the Fishermen, the Farmers, the Mechanics, the Laborers, the Clerks, and all who work for a living—will find a rallying point, where all who wish to see their country advance may join together to work for the common good.

This is not the time for me to outline in detail what the policy of the PEOPLE'S PARTY will be, but it may not be premature for me to state that it will embrace a thorough, vigorous policy on the following subjects:—

1. Education, particularly the increasing of teachers' salaries, increased grants for destitute places, and the improvement of School-rooms from a health and sanitary standpoint.
2. Reduction of taxation so that it may lean equitably on the fishing and laboring classes.
3. Railway extension, by the construction of branch

lines to points in Trinity Bay, Bonavista Bay, Fortune Bay and Bonne Bay, as well as to Trepassey.

4. The enactment of a measure to give to Trade and Labor Union s the same legal status they occupy in Great Britain

5. The establishment of Cold Storage for Bait, in such a way that the advantages of this may be generally participated in.

6. A strict maintenance of every position taken by this Colony in defence of our constitutional rights under the Treaty of 1818.

7. To encourage the prosecution of the Herring Fishery in such manner as will best conserve the interests of the Colony and of the fishermen engaged in this industry.

8. An Agricultural policy, which would embrace a bounty for the clearing of land.

9. Old Age Pensions.

10. The payment of all Poor Relief in Cash.

11. The encouragement of additional Steam Service to the West Indies, via New York, or it may be direct to the West Indies, so as to assist in marketing our fish, thereby raising the price of that commodity.

12. The utilization of our peat fields to meet the price of coal, and the depletion of the stock of fire-wood in our forests.

13. The extension of our Telegraphic and Telephone systems.

14. The maintenance of Self-Government and NO CONFEDERATION.

15. A strict enforcement of the laws regulating mining and the use of explosives, so as to guard against accidents.

16. To introduce legislation to prevent the payment of wages in truck, to enforce the payment of miners and others weekly, and to create a lien for his wages on the property on which the laborer works.

17. Parliamentary representation for the Labrador.

18. Additional steam service to the Labrador, and a further extension there of the Marconi telegraphic system.

19. An arrangement with Messrs. Bowring Brothers for the extension of the Northern Coastal Service during the winter months, or otherwise providing for such a service.

20. The establishment of a daily telegraphic service to furnish information as to Bait fishes, and fish and weather conditions, at all telegraphic stations on the Island.

21. The enactment of a law to prevent the introduction of steam into the Labrador fishery.

22. Improved Municipal legislation.

23. A comprehensive dredging policy, whereby harbors all round our coast line which require such improvement may be made of more use to the fishermen who frequent them.

24. Elective road boards for the outports.

25. Proper housing of laborers at mines and other industrial centres.

26. The extension of light houses and fog alarms as well as public wharves and other marine works.

27. Encouraging the opening up of new markets so as to maintain a good price for fish.

28. The exploration of our Coal areas in such a manner as to determine once and for all whether we can rely on them as an industrial and commercial factor.

29. An industrial policy, which will keep the mechanics of this country at home to work in their own country.

30. Outport Hospitals.

At a later date, in a Manifesto which I shall address to you, I shall outline in detail the policy embraced under the foregoing heads, and the ways and means by which I hope they can be accomplished and be made effective, and this without increased taxation.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

E. P. MORRIS.

REQUISITION

TO SIR EDWARD MORRIS.

We, the undersigned, hereby endorse the views set forth in the foregoing requisition, bearing date January 20th, 1908, addressed to Sir Edward Morris, and signed by Charles Dawe, R. Moulton, M. P. Cashin, S. D. Blandford, W. C. Winsor, and Donald Morison, requesting him to assume the leadership of the Opposition, and to take immediate steps for the re-organization of the Opposition forces throughout the Colony.

St. John's, February 27th, 1908.

JAMES BAIRD
JOHN B. AYRE
A. F. GOODRIDGE
ROBERT WATSON
WILLIAM R. HOWLEY
W. A. MUNN
J. H. MONROE
G. P. EAGAN
J. ALEX. ROBINSON
S. J. FOOTE
JOHN BARRON
WILLIAM FREW
FRANK JACKMAN
LAWRENCE PARKER
PATRICK M. WADDEN
L. E. KEEGAN
M. J. SUMMERS
M. POWER
EDWARD WARREN
H. F. FITZGERALD
JORDAN MILLEY
M. F. LAWLOR
F. C. ALDERDICE
R. FENNELL

W. H. DAVIDSON
JOHN MCCARTHY
P. TEMPLEMAN
J. H. FARRELL
JOSEPH SELLARS
A. HISCOCK
THOMAS POWER
M. A. BASTOW
ROBERT WRIGHT
NICHOLAS WADDEN
WM. P. SHORTALL
THOMAS J. BARRON
WILLIAM E. BEARNS
JAMES O'BRIEN
JAMES J. BECK
LEVI DIAMOND
NICHOLAS COUSENS
S. E. GARLAND
F. MACNAMARA
M. A. DEVINE
P. COSTIGAN
MARTIN MCCARTHY
J. P. CURTIN
J. A. SHORTALL

FRANCOIS POWER
S. G. COLLIER
JOHN FITZGERALD
ROBT. F. POWER
JOHN O. CRUSBIE
JAMES J. BATES
A. J. GOODRIDGE
WM. WOODFORD
JOHN J. DOYLE
JOHN J. JACKMAN
W. V. DRAYTON
JAMES R. HAYES
JOHN McCARTHY
JESSE WHITEWAY
MICHAEL POWER
KALLEEM NOAH
R. G. McDONALD
JOSHUA BURT
ALEX. BRYDEN
JOHN J. HEALEY
N. J. MURPHY
JOSEPH McCARTHY
JAMES H. THOMAS
PATRICK BUCKLEY
M. J. McEVOY
W. P. ROGERSON
EDWARD MURPHY
M. J. DOOLEY
JAMES RENDELL
JAMES FITZGERALD
R. FREEMAN
PATRICK WALSH
M. F. MURPHY
N. G. COADY
THOMAS CRICKARD
JOSEPH KAVANAGH
JOHN DAY
EDWARD BYRNE
ROBERT SHORTALL
JOHN BAKER
BENJAMIN MURPHY
S. E. EBSARY
F. W. KNIGHT
L. J. TAYLOR
S. T. THISTLE
G. B. WHITTEN
RICHARD FORD
W. O. COOK
OBEDIAH POND
G. O. SNOW
JOHN MALONEY

J. B. PENNEY
T. FENNESSEY
C. MURPHY
T. J. NASH
J. J. PARKER
THOS. J. WALSH
J. T. WHITTEN
WILLIAM BENNETT
J. SKINNER
THOMAS GRANT
ANDREW SNOW
JAMES RORKE
JOHN R. GOODISON
EDWARD PARSONS
JAMES MOORE
G. NICHOLL
CHAS. W. H. TESSIER
THOMAS HAYES
RICHARD VOISEY
JAMES AYLWARD
R. CALLAHAN
J. MURRAY
FRANK COADY
MICHAEL O'TOOLE
JOHN ST. JOHN
WILLIAM FINN
JOHN CHANNING
ANDREW COADY
MICHAEL O'BRIEN
RICHARD EARLE
NEWMAN EBSARY
W. S. GUEST
E. COUSENS
WM. HINGSTON
STEPHEN ROGERS
S. H. RODGER
C. L. MARCH
ALEX. McNEVIN
JAMES POWER
PATRICK J. LEONARD
W. BROWN
A. LINDSAY
THOS. STAPLETON
JAMES DOBBIN
A. O'NEIL
A. RICE
J. J. ROSSITER
ARTHUR W. KNIGHT
H. Y. MOTT
THOMAS SMYTH
J. J. MULLALLY

GEORGE NICKERSON
PATRICK KEHOE
A. W. KENNEDY
FRANCIS WILCOX
THOS. J. RYAN
J. A. HISCOCK
J. STICK
J. W. PENNEY
M. J. TOBIN
J. McINTYRE
P. F. COLLINS
J. P. KELLY
W. W. WILLS
J. H. DEE
JAMES RYAN
E. BISHOP

(Master S.S. Ranger.)

DANIEL GREEN
(Master S.S. Aurora.)

ALPHEAUS BARBOUR
(Master S.S. Diana.)

BAXTER BARBOUR
(Master S.S. Kite.)

JOB KEAN
(Master S.S. Erik.)

JACOB KEAN
(Master S.S. Virginia Lake)

GEORGE HANN
(Master S.S. Labrador.)

J. W. KEAN
(Master S.S. Eagle.)

GEORGE BARBOUR
(Master S.S. Neptune.)

PETER S. CARTER
Late Master S.S. Southern Cross.

D. BRAGG
Master S.S. Iceland.

R. FOWLOW
Master S.S. Southern Cross

JOB KNEE
Master S.S. Grand Lake.

JOHN S. PARSONS
(Master a.s. Newfoundland)

M. P. GIBBS
R. K. BISHOP
CHARLES H. EMERSON

JOHN R. BENNETT
J. J. McCARTHY
WILLIAM R. WARREN

F. H. STEER
P. F. MOORE
ROBT. HANNAFORD

A. GOODLAND
WM. MALCOLM.
JOHN M. DEVINE
ALGERNON H. PROWSE
MICHAEL A. DUFFY
JAMES J. COLLINS
MICHAEL MURPHY
JAMES GEANS
H. HEALEY
HENRY ROWE
WILLIAM BUTLER
J. GLADNEY
THOMAS MYRON
M. J. O'MARA
WILLIAM WOODLEY.
MATTHEW KENT
DAVID BAIRD
J. T. MARTIN
R. A. SQUIRES
J. BENNETT
GEORGE C. WHITELEY
D. MONROE
JAS. J. CROWDELL
H. M. ROSS
P. DUFFY
JOHN CROWDELL
P. FENNESSEY
EDWARD BRENNAN
LAWRENCE LAWLOR
NATHANIEL EVANS
JOHN SYME
JOHN S. CURRIE
MALCOLM DAVIDSON
W. J. MYLER
T. J. FORAN
J. FENNESSEY
THOS. MULCAHY
JOHN FURLONG
RICHARD MAHER
L. J. GRIFFEN
JOHN G. CLOONEY
JOHN CANNING
A. H. SALTER
L. G. CHAFE
M. PUDDISTER
W. H. DUDER
C. V. O'KEEFE
JOHN CARNELL
W. J. EDGAR
ARTHUR DUNNE
S. A. MOULTON
JAMES A. LEAHEY
E. M. L. MESSURIER

R. F. GOODRIDGE
A. RODGER
JAMES J. GALWAY
D. M. BAIRD
JAMES W. WINSOR
THOMAS McCARTHY
W. G. PIPPY
B. SPRATT
R. A. TEMPLETON
R. G. POWER
JAMES CHANNING
WILLIAM ENNIS
JOHN VOISEY

P. T. McGRATH
ALEX McFOUGALL
WILLIAM O'ROURKE
MICHAEL BLACKLER
PETER WHITTLE
G. TAYLOR
WILLIAM SNOW
J. A. COOK
R. WHITTEN
ROBERT BURTON
GEORGE STAGG
ROBERT GRANTER
RICHARD POWER



(From the "Daily News" March 5th.)

THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.

HAIL TO SIR EDWARD MORRIS.

**Stalwart Conservatives Join Hands
With Independent Liberals in the
Determination to Overthrow a
Government of Fads and Failures.**

**A Broad, Comprehensive and Popu-
lar Platform, on which all Classes
and Creeds May Unite.**

**A Party of the People, with a Policy
For the People, and a Leader
from the People.**

With the acceptance of the leadership of the united Opposition, a new era in the political history of the Colony commences.

There was a time when the Liberal Party was regarded by some as a party of the people for the people, but that time passed when the sceptre was rudely snatched from the hands of Sir William Whiteway by an ambitious and unworthy successor.

The Bond Executive and party today contains a remnant of the

old Liberal guard, and that is open to doubt—is at best and at most, a mere appendage to an individual; a machine for the registering of votes in the Assembly, and a more or less animated phonograph for the recording of the decisions of an autocratic but incompetent chief.

There is not a party of the past, or a policy of the past but is represented in the present Government ranks—where old time Tories, such as Hons. J. S. Pitts and Geo. Shea, sit cheek by jowl with Whiteway

Liberals, like Hons. Eli Dawe and J. A. Olift, and noisy politicians whose ideas of politics are comprised in the unbridled abuse of political opponents.

There we see men who warmly advocated the great Railway policy of 1898 in superficial harmony with those who have denounced them in all the moods and tenses of the vocabularies of Webster and Billingsgate.

On the streets and in the clubs the one element denounces the other in terms that leave no question as to the sincerity of the mutual dislike and distrust; but at the cracking of the master's whip these elements vie with each other in rendering prompt and unquestioning obedience. Theirs not to reason why. Theirs but to do as their master declares.

The cement which temporarily but insecurely holds together the sections of the moribund Bond party, is neither loyalty nor policy in the true sense of the word. It is that kind of policy which is known as expediency, the object of which is pull, patronage, and offices of emolument, first, last and all the time.

When in last July Sir Edward Morris left the Cabinet, he took with him not merely the brains of the party, but also the only power which existed amongst it whereby disaster to the Colony could be minimized,—we cannot say averted, for not even his restraining and warning influence was sufficient to prevent those crass stupidities and monumental blunders as have followed each other in rapid and inglorious succession during the past eight years. Even a Sandow may be bound by Lilliputians if their numbers are sufficiently great.

It was with a sense of profound sorrow that the Conservative party recognized that the resignation of their beloved and honored leader, the Hon. Charles Dawe, was inevitable.

When all too soon that resignation was announced, it was reluctantly accepted by those who would willingly and cheerfully have fought, whether to victory or defeat, under his unsullied banner.

It will be remembered that on that occasion the retiring leader wrote a letter which must always rank high amongst the most manly utterances of the world's leaders of men. He urged unity of action amongst those opposed to the Government, and with a magnanimity and high sense of honor and duty all too rare, tendered his warm support actively, if renewed health permitted, to a united party's choice of a successor.

When the House opened this year two Opposition sections sat on the Speaker's right, the old Conservative Opposition formerly led by Captain Dawe, and the Independent Liberals with whom Sir Edward Morris allied himself.

During the session both sections did yeomen's services. They probed deeply into the festering wounds of the body politic, and again and again exposed the corruption and the rank incapacity of an administration, which has won notoriety for its fads and failures, and its utter disregard for the rights of the people.

It was in the course of the session that the old time Conservatives approached Sir Edward Morris with the request that he would erect a leader's banner around which all might rally, and pledged to him their support and loyalty.

Many men would have readily availed of the opportunity. Not so Sir Edward Morris. He preferred to wait for the assurance not only of the support of the individual members of the Opposition in the House, but also of those prominent supporters of the Opposition who had been active in the struggle of the past, and of the great army of Liberals who followed him in July last, when Premier Bond's attempt to prevent

the carrying into effect throughout the Island of Sir Edward Morris's action in raising the wage of the laborers to \$1.25 a day, left Sir Edward no alternative but to retire from a ministry which could be capable of such treachery to people whom it boasted that it was always eager to befriend.

That this support was forthcoming none doubted; but no steps were then taken to ascertain the people's wishes, for there was work to be done, and to the effectual performance of that work every one of those in the two wings of the Opposition directed their best energies.

With what success is matter of general knowledge. In order to avoid further exposure, the House was closed within twenty-two days,—an unprecedented proceeding,—whilst information asked for was withheld or deliberately delayed on pitiful pretexts until with the close of the session the opportunity of securing the information necessary for the proper ventilation of public grievances vanished.

As soon as the House closed, from all over the country came the demand for a union of Opposition forces, under the leadership of Sir Edward Morris. Whether he would accept the honour thus conferred on him remained undecided until a few days ago when, in answer to the requisition, which we publish to-day, Sir Edward consented to assume the laborious and responsible position of Leader.

To-day a new flag floats in the breeze, the flag of the People's Party. It is big enough to wave over the entire Island, and capacious enough to embrace in its protecting folds all those who place the rights and requirements of the people first in the programme of Legislative duties.

The Conservative Old Guard has joined hand in hand with the Inde-

pendent Liberals, and a platform has been enunciated which merits the support of all who love the land of their nativity or residence, and who believe in the great future, which, under capable guidance, lies before her.

Sir Edward Morris will make an ideal leader of a People's Party. He is of the people, and whether in power or out of power, has again and again proven himself their friend. There is no other politician in Newfoundland, nor has there been, so far as we know, who for nearly a quarter of a century has represented the same constituency, headed the poll at each election, and never lost a colleague!

For a man to achieve such a rare and glorious record he must be, not merely an able man, but a true one; not merely popular, but capable; not merely "hail fellow well met," with young and old, rich and poor alike, but a friend in need and thus a friend indeed.

If there are any traits in Sir Edward's character that more than others during his past career have been in evidence, they are his absolute fairness to all, irrespective of class, creed or party; his readiness to aid in all those things which tend to the amelioration of his fellow-men, and his accessibility to all. The district which Sir Edward Morris represents is one that contains nearly as many voters of other different denominations as there are of that in which he is himself a member; and by reference to the requisition it will be seen that the call for him to undertake the leadership of the People's Party is as emphatic from the former as from the latter, a tribute to their recognition of his sentiments of toleration and his statesmanship which is eminently suggestive of the liberality of our people in

such matters that has become so manifest of late years

That is the kind of a leader which a People's Party requires, and that is the kind of leader that the People's Party of Newfoundland has to lead it to victory,—Conservative when the preservation of the rights of his country and its citizens is concerned; Liberal, in the truest sense of the word, and above all, a man of the people, with a policy for the people, colleagues representative of all classes of the people, and one object before all others, the maintenance of the People's rights, the extension of the People's privileges, and the safeguarding of the People's interests in such manner as to ensure the happiness and permanent prosperity of the People.

The Daily News heartily endorses the leadership of Sir Edward Morris, and will lend its aid to the further-

ance of the policy which he has nunciated, a policy worthy of a People's Leader, and a platform broad enough and solid enough to bear upon its boards the strength of all forms of thought and opinion united in the determination to remove from power a Government which has failed in every essential of statesmanship, and plunged the country into a quagmire of indebtedness, giving away millions of dollars without a single gain to compensate for the stupendous and wholly unnecessary loss.

We salute the Banner of the People's Party to-day, unfurled by Sir Edward Morris, and do so with the assured conviction that his flag will long float triumphantly over the wall of our Island Home, a symbol of hope, of cheer, of usefulness, and of victory.

(From the "Evening Chronicle" March 5th)

The People's Party

Led By Sir E. P. Morris.

Appeals to the Electors

To Overthrow Bond's "Bunglers."

Influential Requisition

Comprehensive Platform.

"Victory is in the Air."

The announcement in this issue of Sir Edward Morris's acceptance of the Leadership of the People's Party, marks a new era in our political history. The call for Sir Edward Morris to undertake the formation of the new political party is due to people of all classes and conditions having come to realize that a continuance of Sir Robert Bond's rule, with its aggregation of colossal blundering, means utter ruin for the Colony, and that if this is to be averted, some other man must be placed in charge of our affairs.

Sir Edward Morris has been in pub-

lic life for twenty five years, and holds the unique record of having represented the one district for that one period, heading the poll in St. John's West in every election, and never having lost a colleague. He has, however, an even better claim to public confidence than even this, for he has been conspicuous during that whole period for the ability, energy and foresight which he has brought to the consideration of public affairs. In his early parliamentary days, when he was a member of the original Liberal party--of which he is the sole surviving representa-

tive in public affairs today—he carried thro the Legislature the Mechanics' Lien Bill, the Employers' Liability Bill, the Bank Fishermen's Insurance Bill and a number of other measures designed to improve the material well-being of our working classes.

In 1889 Sir Edward became a member of Sir Wm. Whiteway's administration, and in that capacity has been identified with every measure for which that party claims credit—the building of the railroad and the other projects with which our people are familiar as having been put forward during the past twenty years. Sir Edward introduced the measure for the creation of the Council of Higher Education and it was he who, during the absence of Sir Robert Bond a few years ago, increased the Education Vote by \$60,000, the largest increase ever given in the history of the Colony and five times as much as Sir Robert Bond's Executive gave this year. Last summer again, while Sir Robert Bond was in England, Sir Edward, as everybody knows, increased the pay of the laborers on public works to \$1.25 per day, and it was the attempt of Sir Robert Bond and Mr. Gushue to destroy the value of this concession that caused Sir Edward Morris to leave the Bond party.

Sir Edward Morris has always been conspicuous for his advocacy of measures to advance the interests of the working classes. The latest evidence of this was his action during the present session, when he effected an amendment to the new Employers' Liability Act, increasing the compensation for total disablement from \$500 to \$900 a year for three years, but this amendment was rejected by the Government supporters in the Upper House, a fact which is a striking commentary on the sincerity of the Bondite claim to be always promoting the welfare of our industrial classes. Sir Edward

Morris showed his interest in the working people by his advocacy of concessions for the sealers, his securing a "rise" in the price of "fat" and his action last year in arranging for the sending home of stranded crews, and it must not be forgotten in this connection that Sir Robert Bond and every member of the Government party voted against Sir Edward Morris's proposals to improve the condition of the sealers this year.

The first plank in the Whiteway platform of 1889 was the pledge of \$1.25 a day, but for twenty years that pledge was not made good, until Sir Edward Morris gave it effect last summer. For the past eight years, since Sir Robert Bond became Premier, the country has been at a standstill; not a mile of railroad has been built, not a progressive undertaking has been set on foot. All sorts of wild-cat schemes have been projected and the Statute Book has been laden with enactments of the most farcical character, not one of which has ever assumed any vitality—Coal Boring Schemes, Flett Fiascos, Fog Free Zone, Boats, etc. During the previous ten years Whiteway and Morris built the railroad from St. John's to Port au Basques, and carried out many other substantial undertakings. During the latter period, however, the several sections of the country, isolated from railroad communication, have petitioned for the same, Sir Robert Bond has ignored their appeals. Sir Edward Morris now gives an assurance that this work will be undertaken, and that every important section of the country will be brought into direct communication with the capital. Sir Edward Morris also pledges himself to encourage our fisheries, by the establishment of bait freezers, steam communication to the West Indies, daily bait intelligence service, and the opening up of new markets for our products. He undertakes to en-

courage agriculture by a vigorous and progressive policy in that direction, and the providing of a bonus for land clearing. He undertakes to encourage our mining industry by developing our mineral areas, by a proper exploration of our coal areas, the utilization of our peat fields, the enforcement of laws to safeguard the lives and limbs of men employed in mines, the proper housing of miners and other workmen, and generally stimulate progress in this direction. He undertakes to increase the education grant and to improve scholastic facilities, to reduce taxation in the interests of the masses, to protect trade and labor unions, as is done in Great Britain; to provide old age pensions and pay poor relief in cash; to provide elective Road Boards for the outports, and to add new light houses and fog alarms.

On the question of Confederation Sir Edward Morris is as emphatic as the most exacting could desire. He declares his policy to be the maintenance of self-government and no Confederation. Of course the stock cry of his opponents is that Confederation is at the bottom of this movement, but it must not be forgotten that only last evening we published a lengthy article from the Telegram, of May 30th, 1900, in which that paper strongly advocates union with Canada as being most advantageous for the people of this Colony.

There is no longer in this Colony a Liberal party in the sense in which supporters of Sir Robert Bond would endeavor to have people believe. The Liberal party originally was that led by Sir Ambrose Shea from 1885 to 1889, and when that party combined with Sir William Whiteway's following in the fall of 1889 and Messrs. Morris, Emerson, McGrath, O'Dwyer and others joined with Sir William Whiteway the name of Liberal was given to the united organization, just as the name—the People's Party—is being given to that now formed, and

of which Sir Edward Morris is to be the leader. Sir Robert Bond himself began life as a Tory, being elected as a Conservative in Trinity in 1882, and again in Fortune Bay, under the same banner, in 1885. As one of Sir William Whiteway's lieutenants he was dubbed a Liberal in 1889, but nearly half his present following is made up of people long identified with the Tory party. Messrs. Pitts and Shea were Tory Cabinet Ministers 10 years ago, and nearly every appointment made by Sir Robert Bond of late to the public service was a Tory candidate or office holder, and yet the one cry of their new, now the Tory leader. Still we find Premier Bond proclaiming that he is against Confederation, whereas it is by no means improbable that if he were returned again he would find himself in such a position because of the difficulties in which he has involved the Colony, that he would be compelled to bring about Confederation in order to extricate us.

Chief amongst these difficulties is the fact that we have been paying enormous sums of money to Railway Contractor Reid the past few years, and that further claims amounting to \$2,000,000 are now before us for settlement. The people of the country are staggering under the burden this enormous outlay has created, and they want to get rid of Sir Robert Bond and his party in order that new men may take command of the ship of state and sail her into steadier waters. Hence the army of well-wishers, whose names are on Sir Edward's requisition and who represent all classes, creeds and conditions in the community have united to form the People's Party. With its creation a feeling of security is being felt in the Colony, people breathe more freely because they recognize that a change is about to take place and that a proper business-like administration of affairs will be inaugurated by Sir Edward when he takes hold

of the management of our affairs. Of course it goes without saying that Sir Robert Bond and his organs will now attempt to steal the platform of the People's Party, and will claim that every proposition put forward by Sir Edward has been "under consideration by the Government," just as Sir Robert did with regard to securing concessions for the sealers.

A significant circumstance in connection with the present movement and with the Requisition addressed to Sir Edward Morris is the fact that people of all denominations have largely signed it. It is a striking testimonial to the growth of a spirit of toleration in the community that the people of this Colony, irrespective of class or church, are prepared to follow the example of Canada in electing Sir Wilfrid Laurier as Premier of that country, and are ready to accept Sir Edward Morris and do their part to place him at the head of our administration, in the hope and confident belief that he will administer our public affairs as wisely and as well as Sir Wilfrid Laurier has those of Canada during the past ten years.

Another significant circumstance is the fact that so many of the masters of the sealing steamers have signed the requisition to Sir Edward Morris. During the past month, ever since the episode in the House of Assembly, regarding the sending home of stranded sealers, Sir Robert Bond and his organs have been claim-

ing that the credit for this is due to him and the Government, and not to Sir Edward Morris, but the names of the sealing masters appended to Sir Edward Morris's requisition indicate that they take a different and more correct view of the matter, and that they are prepared to do justice to the man who really befriended them on that occasion, and of whose fitness for the leadership of the Government they express themselves confident.

Finally, we might observe that this is the first time, if we are not mistaken, in the history of the Colony, that a requisition of the character of that we publish today, has been presented to a public man. Well paid Government touters may pretend to scoff at the movement for the creation of a People's Party, and try to make out that Sir Robert Bond's of what is going to occur in this Colony next November.

We congratulate Sir Edward Morris on this tribute to his statesmanship and his popularity. We welcome the People's Party and its leader, and we feel safe in predicting that when the ballots are counted next fall, it will be found that Sir Edward Morris will have a majority so substantial as to be the most complete and convincing testimony of his fitness to guide our destinies, and the most ample inspiration to him to inaugurate an era of good government for this Most Ancient and Loyal Colony.

